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No. 6

THE BAPTIST

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Baptist vols. charged with kidnapping

PORT-AU-PRINCE (BP)—A Haitian prosecutor February 4 charged 10 members of a Baptist volunteer team with child kidnapping and criminal association for allegedly not following the law in attempting to transport 33 children into the Dominican Republic.

Haitian Deputy Prosecutor Jean Ferge Joseph then handed the case to an investigative judge, Reuters news service reported.

"That judge can free you but he can also continue to hold you for further proceedings," he told the group, comprised of five men and five women who were arrested Jan. 29.

The charges carry prison terms of up to 15 years, The New York Times reported.

The case has garnered national and international attention and has adoption and Christian aid agencies concerned it could tarnish their work. The 10 volunteers maintain they are innocent. A Haitian pastor who assisted the team told the Associated Press that the volunteers had permission from parents of children in the group who were not orphans to transport them into the Dominican Republic and into an orphanage there. The pastor, Jean Sainvil, described the controversy as a misunderstanding stemming from the volunteers not having the needed paperwork for the children. Sainvil said the Baptist volunteers were acting "with a good heart."

Prior to the Thursday hearing, group leader Laura Silsby told a group of reporters, "We're just trusting God for a positive outcome." Southern Baptist Convention leaders, including SBC President Johnny Hunt and Executive Committee President Morris H. Chapman, have urged Southern Baptists to pray for the jailed volunteers.

Gil Lain, senior pastor of Paramount Baptist Church in Amarillo, Texas — where one of the volunteers, Jim Allen, is a member — said in a statement Wednesday on the church's website that the volunteers'



SILSBY - Laura Silsby, leader of the 10-member Baptist volunteer team now charged with child kidnapping and criminal association in Haiti, is shown here in a video posted by the BBC in the hours before the charges were announced by Haitian authorities.

goal simply was to "take care of 'the least of these' (Matthew 25:40), just as Jesus said." He also discounted accusations that the 10 volunteers knew what they were doing was wrong.

"Here's what you may not have heard or read: They spent three days getting the proper paperwork in order," Lain said. "The problem arose when they got to the border and still lacked something due to a change in the laws."

Allen's wife, Lisa, told CNN's "Larry King Live" she has not spoken with her husband since he was arrested.

"I think it's a big misunderstanding that's kind of been blown out of proportion," she said. "Their intentions were to go there and help the kids that were in need."

The families of the volunteers released a brief statement Wednesday that read in part, "Our hearts and prayers continue to go out to our family members who are being held in Haiti. We are concerned and worried about them, but the two governments need time to work this out."

P. J. Crowley, a spokesman for the U.S. State Department, was quoted in a CNN.com report as saying American and Haitian officials are "working to try to ascertain what happened [and] the motive behind these people."

"Clearly, there are questions about procedure as to whether they had the appropriate paperwork to move the children," Crowley said.

Silsby was seen in several video interviews Feb. 1 and Jan. 31, which were permitted by authorities, as stating that the group had thought their plans were in order for transporting the children into the

Dominican Republic until they were stopped by Haitian guards at the border between the two countries.

Silsby, in a Feb. 1 interview with a CNN reporter, said, "We believe that we have been charged very falsely with trafficking, which of course that is the furthest possible extreme; because, I mean, our hearts here — we literally all gave up, you know, everything we had, I mean, income, used of our own funds to come here and help these children and by no means are any part of that horrendous practice."

Of the 33 children the team was seeking to aid, Silsby said, "They really didn't have any paperwork. This is, again, probably a misunderstanding on my part, but I did not really understand that that would really need to be required."

Told by the CNN reporter that at least 10 of the children had a mother or father and a telephone number, Silsby said, "I can tell you our heart and our intent was to help only those children that needed us most, that they had lost either both mother and father, or had lost one of their parents and the other parent had abandoned them."

Silsby is a member of Central Valley Church in Meridian, Idaho, as are group members Charisa Coulter, Carla Thompson and Nicole and Corinna Lankford. Three detainees are from Eastside Church in Twin Falls, Idaho: pastor Paul Thompson, his son Silas and church member Steve McMullen. The other detainees are Allen and Drew Culbert, a firefighter who also is an assistant youth pastor at Bethel Church in Topeka, Kan. Bethel is the only church not affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

## Buckets of Hope

Buckets of Hope allows every individual, family, group, or church to participate in disaster relief efforts in Haiti. For approximately \$30 anyone can purchase the materials and assemble a "bucket of hope." The food contained in a single bucket will feed a Haitian family for a week.

Every bucket must be exactly alike with a specific list of items inside. Please follow the detailed instructions carefully. This will insure that every bucket passes quickly through customs and into the hands of the Haitian people.

For more information and specific instructions on how to pack your bucket visit the "Buckets of Hope" website at [www.namb.net/bucketsofhope](http://www.namb.net/bucketsofhope). Here you will find plenty

of help to ensure your bucket will be able to be sent to Haiti. In addition to the bucket and food items you are asked to include \$10 to cover the shipping costs.

Watch The Baptist Record and visit [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org) frequently for more information, including pick up sites and dates for the buckets. This information will be made available as soon as possible.





# Microsoft's Xbox 360 gains a Bible application

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—An Xbox 360 application featuring the Holman Christian Standard Bible is now downloadable through the "Indie Games" channel of Xbox.com.

Yes, the Bible. "Bible Navigator X" is thought to be "the first complete Bible available on a video game console," according to a news release from LifeWay Christian Resources.

"This application will bring the Bible into people's living rooms and onto their televisions in a completely new and innovative way," said Aaron Linne, executive producer of digital marketing for LifeWay's B&H Publishing Group.

The new Xbox application consists of the Old and New Testaments of the Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB) as well as three additional tools: a concordance-like search function; bookmarking, allowing for marking passages and reorganizing the bookmarks into an order appropriate for teaching or study; and a presentation mode that features a larger display for projecting onto a screen.

"We've included 10 different themes to change the look and

feel of the Bible, while maintaining the readability," Linne also noted in comments provided to Collide, a magazine focusing on visual media, music, technology and the Web in communicating the Gospel. "We wanted to be sure that there was a theme for everyone, including our HCSB look, themes for students [such as LifeWay's Fuge camps] and even a [women's] PrayerGates.com theme."

Bible Navigator X — its www.BibleNavigatorX.com website includes a TV news report on the new tool — was added to the Xbox Indie Games channel on Jan. 19. It can be purchased from within the Xbox dashboard or via the product page at Xbox.com for 400 Microsoft Points (the equivalent of \$5).

Xbox "isn't just secular entertainment anymore," Linne said. "We can use technology ... to study Scriptures through a new medium. Some people are just more comfortable with a controller in their hands than a book.... Why should we force them to hold paper and binding in their hands if plastic and buttons can be just as engaging?"

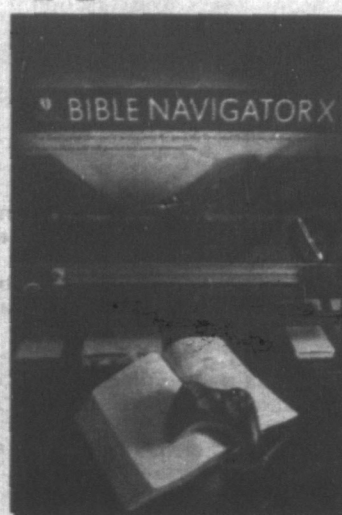
With Bible Navigator X,

Linne added, "We can gather our small groups around our HDTVs and scroll through the word quickly and easily. We can enjoy the greatest story ever told on the screen where so many other mediums have reigned for so long...."

"There are so many ways we can leverage technology to share the Good News of Christ, and B&H is proud to be able to use our resources and the HCSB translation in order to carve out new ways to distribute the Word," Linne said. "It's important for us to always be thinking about how else we might share the Gospel."

Linne said Bible Navigator X can be "a great tool for youth ministers who often teach in youth spaces that already have Xbox consoles in them. It's a quick way to create teaching aids from equipment you already have."

With the bookmarks function, Linne said, youth ministers — or any small group leader — "could use it to queue up lessons. You can shift around the order of the bookmarks, so that as you scroll through them it can follow your lesson plan. As a hidden tip, pressing the RB



**BIBLE NAVIGATOR X - B&H** Publishing Group has launched "Bible Navigator X" for Xbox 360, thought to be the first Bible reader application available on a video game console. (Photo by Kent Harville.)

or LB buttons on the controller will move to the next or previous bookmark so that the Bible Navigator X application can be used as a Bible presentation tool."

## VBS at 'Saddle Ridge Ranch' previewed

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Despite the onset of snow and ice, nearly 900 VBS leaders came to Nashville with summer on their minds.

Vacation Bible School for 2010, themed "Saddle Ridge Ranch," was the focus of two VBS preview events sponsored by the VBS area of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention Jan. 28-29 and 29-30 at LifeWay's home office in Nashville, Tenn.

These were the last of seven VBS previews; sessions were held earlier in Fort Worth, Texas, Ridgecrest, N.C., and Las Vegas. Combined, about 2,400 people learned how to best organize Saddle Ridge Ranch VBS for their churches and their children.

In addition to attendees from local churches, 650 state and associational VBS leaders received additional training during specialized VBS sessions held in conjunction with the preview. These leaders will return to their states and associations and train up to 70,000 local church leaders.

"These preview events are fun, but the most important thing the attendees receive is training for their VBS weeks," said Jerry Wooley, LifeWay's VBS specialist. "Training is what sets LifeWay VBS apart from other VBSes. We want people to be trained and prepared for the ultimate goal of VBS: to lead children, youth and adults to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ."



**RIDE 'EM, COWBOYS!** - Children swing their imaginary lariats, stomp their feet and sing during the "Saddle Ridge Ranch Shodeo," the Vacation Bible School musical for 2010, performed by the New Vision Baptist Church children's choir from Murfreesboro, Tenn. (Photo by Kent Harville.)

The VBS preview offers leaders from churches of all sizes the opportunity to learn how to do the VBS crafts, snacks and decorations, as well as how-tos in creating an appealing VBS experience. The training attendees received can be adapted for any size church.

"The average size VBS is 85 kids," said Lynne Norris, LifeWay's VBS editor and video producer. "That's an average. Many are much larger, but many are smaller."

Even some pastors, recognizing the importance of VBS, attended the preview and were treated to a conference designed just for them by Art Groomes, LifeWay's discipleship and ministry specialist.

"Vacation Bible School pro-

vides one of the best evangelistic opportunities all year," Groomes told the pastors. "There are team leaders to assist in many areas, but they need the pastor's support and leadership. You play a key role."

He said the pastor's involvement is crucial because people take notice and will follow his lead. Conversely, if the pastor doesn't show support, that can be noticeable, possibly diminishing the effectiveness of VBS.

Groomes suggested that pastors take advantage of social networking — the church website, Facebook, Twitter, etc. — to

keep church members alerted to VBS needs. "Tweet one or two prayer requests a day. Mention an age group, a teacher or a specific need," he said. "Everyone else is using social networking, and you can, too."

Besides pastoral support, parental support is important to the success of VBS. "Parents are the primary spiritual leaders of their children, so we want to equip them to fill that role," Ann Edwards, LifeWay's childhood ministry specialist, said during a workshop about involving the family in VBS.

"Children and preschool workers are able to do home visits if no one else can," Edwards said. "Parents who let their children attend VBS are interested in what they did. You can take one of the child's projects to the home after VBS and through this have the opportunity to visit with the parents."

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

Plans are underway to distribute Bibles provided by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board to all 800 fire stations in the state of Mississippi, according to Sonny Adkins, director of the MBCB Evangelism Department.

### 20 years ago

The program and budget subcommittee of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee proposes a radical reduction in support of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. If passed, the Washington-based organization's budget would be slashed by 87.24%.

### 50 years ago

Evangelist Billy Graham runs into significant Moslem opposition to his initial Nigeria rallies when anti-Christian pamphlets and posters were distributed.



## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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**YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!**

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

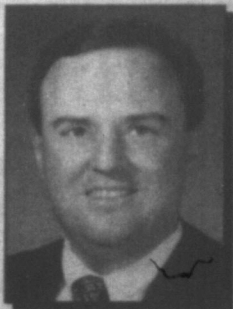
If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.







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# The encroaching paganism

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof... — Bill of Rights, First Amendment*

Freedom of religion is one of the cornerstones of our way of life in the United States, as we all learned in our high school civics class. It was so fundamental to the Founding Fathers' vision of this new country that it is the very first item codified in the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights to the U.S. Constitution.

Christians have been well-served over the years by the amendment, as has virtually every other faith known to mankind. While everyone has been free to worship (or not) as they please, evangelical Christians have utilized the umbrella protections of the First Amendment to seek to bring non-believers to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as the one true and living Son of the one true and living God.

Just as Christians are free to worship God, non-Christians are just as free to turn down the opportunity to do so. It has always been our mission as Christians to win them over. Likewise, it has always been our obligation to convince those who believe in false religions to see the error of their ways and convert to Christianity. Unlike other dark eras in religion, however, no one in America is forced to accept another's faith. It's always been up to Christians to get the job done (Matthew 28:18-20).

It's time to redouble our efforts. It may be difficult for those of us who live in the buckle of the Bible Belt to realize just how pagan our country has become, but it's true. Recent news dispatches should give us a clue.



**DEDICATED TO WITCHCRAFT** — U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Robert Longcrier uses white sage to consecrate a pagan worship area on a hill overlooking the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Co. The ceremony took place just after sunrise on the winter solstice, Dec. 21, 2009. The academy is scheduled to officially designate the circle as a pagan "chapel" during a dedication ceremony in March 2010. Wiccans, or modern-day witches, are expected to utilize the area for their worship. (U.S. Air Force photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Don Branum)

The U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Co., has officially approved the construction of a pagan prayer circle on the grounds of the government-owned facility. The Wicca religion, essentially the practice of ancient witchcraft sanitized and legitimized by modern followers, is expected to be the main user

of the new "chapel." Wiccans worship both the female Triple Goddess and the male Horned God. The pentacle, which contains a five-pointed star associated with black magic and devil worship, is their symbol.

"They've had a worship circle on base for some time and we're looking to get them an official one," said academy spokesman John Van Winkle. Wiccans thus join a number of other religions officially recognized by the academy, including Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, and Islam.

Fort Hood in Texas, the largest U.S. Army base in the world, has had such a pagan "chapel" for years.

This follows news of the approval by the U.S. Veterans Administration of the pentacle for inclusion on the official list of religious symbols that can be placed on government-supplied headstones for deceased military personnel. Selena Fox, a Wiccan high priestess for the Circle Sanctuary in Barneveld, WI, celebrated the conclusion of the lawsuit against the VA, in which she was a plaintiff, that brought about the approval of the pentacle for headstones.

"I'm glad this ended in success in time to get markers for Memorial Day," she said.

The pentacle joins 38 other religious symbols approved for military grave markers, including Sufism Reoriented, Eckiankar, and Seicho-No-Ie. The U.S. Air Force also recognizes shamanism and Druidism.

It's a fact that our Bill of Rights guarantees these people the right to worship as they please. It's a tragedy that so many of them have chosen the wrong path and are headed for eternal damnation without the Savior. Thank God we have the freedom to openly testify to them of the life-changing power of that Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our mission is clear, and time is short. We have to help bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus. After what He did for us, it's the least we can do for him.

## GUEST OPINION:

### Providing for the Needs of People, Part 2

By Alan McCullough,  
pastor, First Church, Canton



A cursory reading of Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution reveals that Congress has much work to do protecting our God-given rights without creating more "rights" by getting involved in providing for the perceived needs of citizens. So, if government is not to provide for our needs, who should?

Scripture teaches us that families are to provide for families. On a fundamental level, God expects one to work and to provide for his own. One is easily reminded of the passage in 2 Thessalonians 3:10 which reads, "For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: 'If a man will not work, he shall not eat.'" And again in 1 Timothy 5:8 one reads, "If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." Once again in 1 Timothy 5:3,4 the text states, "Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for

this is pleasing to God." Someone may ask, "What about those in a church who are disabled, poor, and needy yet have no family?"

Scripture teaches that church families are to assist church families. An example of this truth is found in 1 Timothy 5:3,4 where there are widows without income and without family. The text reads, "Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God." Again in Galatians 6:10 one is taught, "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith."

What about the poor and needy outside the church? Does a church have a responsibility toward them? Perhaps it would be helpful to define "poor and needy." Jesus defines the needy in Matthew 25:31-46 as those who are hungry, thirsty, in need of clothing and shelter. This writer believes it isn't reasonable for a church to attempt to provide everyone a nice house, cable television, cell phones, cars, etc. Rather, a church can help provide for basic necessities of life as defined by Jesus.

Scripture is replete with instructions on caring for the poor and needy. One reads in Leviticus 25:35 "If one of your countrymen becomes poor and is unable to support himself among you, help him as you would an alien or a temporary resident, so he can con-

tinue to live among you." In Leviticus 23:22 the Word states, "When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the LORD your God." Again in Psalm 82:3 one finds, "Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed." Again in Proverbs 14:31 "He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God." Space would not allow the full texts of Proverbs 19:17; Proverbs 22:9; Proverbs 28:27; James 1:27; and James 2:15,16 which reinforce the church's responsibility to remember the poor and needy in practical ways.

So if government's role is limited to protecting its citizen's rights to be free and be protected from harm, what is the responsibility of a follower of Jesus?

1. Be investing in family.
2. Be involved in a local church family.
3. Be informed biblically, historically, and politically.
4. Be involved in the political process.
5. Be interceding for governmental leaders.



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

February 11, 2010

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

## ADOPT-A-SUMMER MISSIONARY

MISSISSIPPI BSU

Pastors

WMU Leaders

- 2010 is the 63rd year of Mississippi Baptists sending summer missionaries.
- This year, more than 220 students will serve. This is the largest group of summer missionaries ever sent out by Mississippi Baptists.
- Students will raise more than \$250,000 to be able to serve this summer.

**YOUR CHURCH CAN BE A PART OF SUPPORTING OUR MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST SUMMER MISSIONARIES!**

You can support these students in several ways:

**Spiritual** Praying for these students.

**Physical** Helping students with small things they may need such as toiletries, gift cards, stamps, etc. Once you have adopted a student, you can contact them and find out their specific needs.

**DEADLINE: MAY 15!**

To adopt a summer missionary, please contact Peggy Powell in the Collegiate Ministry Department, [ppowell@mbcb.org](mailto:ppowell@mbcb.org) or 601.292.3299.



## Retiro Anual para Mujeres

Conferencista:  
Hna. Dianne Daniels

**Tema: Mujer, Cambia Tu Mundo**



*Como Dios usa a las mujeres para hacer una diferencia*



Esta actividad se llevara a cabo el 9 y 10 de abril de 2010 en el campamento de Central Hills Baptist Retreat 6377 Attala Road 4227, West, MS 39192

El costo sera de \$30.00

Los esperamos, Nos vemos en el retiro



## Annual Hispanic Women's Retreat

April 9, register 3 p.m. - April 10, 4 p.m.

Central Hills Baptist Retreat

Cost: \$30

### THEME:

*Woman, Change Your World: How God Uses Women to Make a Difference*

### SPECIAL GUEST:

**MRS. DIANNE DANIELS**

Multicultural Consultant with National WMU and Editor of Nuestra Tarea

### SPECIAL TRACT:

**"JUST FOR TEEN GIRLS"**

lead by Erica Hagar and Garaywa Summer Staff

To register: Contact Maria Elena Treviño, 207 Apple Street, New Albany, MS 38652 / 662-372-3918 / [homerote@iname.com](mailto:homerote@iname.com) OR Paula Smith, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 / 601-968-3800, ext. 336 / [psmith@mbcb.org](mailto:psmith@mbcb.org)

## 2010 Singles Life Conferences



**Tuesday, March 23**

**Riverside BC, Clarksdale**

**6:30 - 8:00 p.m. (Free Supper)**

### • "Singleness with a Purpose"

Miss Becky Brown, Richland (recording artist and author)

### • "Experience Forgiveness"

Glenn Shows, Singles/Family Ministry Consultant, MBCB

For more information call: 662.627.3417 or

E-mail: [ndba@cableone.net](mailto:ndba@cableone.net)

**Tuesday, February 23 at**

**FBC, Booneville**

**6:30 - 8:00 p.m.**

### • "Five Love Languages for Singles"

Tim Alexander, Minister of Education/Singles, Harrisburg BC, Tupelo

### • "Singleness with a Purpose"

Glenn Shows, MBCB

For more information call: 662.728.6272 or

E-mail [nanette.yarber@fbcbooneville.com](mailto:nanette.yarber@fbcbooneville.com)



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By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004  
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EXSR IRWRGGRU  
XOXZJNC QR.

ZNXXZE DJR: CAD

Clue: E = H

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Proverbs Eight: Eleven

## EAVESDROPPER

To eavesdrop is to listen in on someone else's conversation, somewhat overhearing it, and somewhat tuning in so that you can make sure that you do not miss anything. I do not like eavesdroppers. When I say that, I recognize that it is hard not to be an eavesdropper in our world and to listen in on other folks' conversations. Usually, even though you do not want to hear it, you are hearing a half of a conversation as someone sits next to you in a restaurant or maybe beside you on an airplane. They may be just walking down the street alongside of you talking on their cell phone. If I am in a room and a conversation is going on that I am actually not a part of, I will turn and walk away. I will put distance between me and the person who is talking to someone so that he or she will feel free to carry on the conversation. I don't need to listen in on their conversation. I know that some people love to get in on other people's conversations, to listen in, and get all of the morsels of gossip and innuendo that they can. If that is your cup of tea, I feel sorry for you. That is none of your business so turn your antenna in another direction.

With all of that said, the other day I was walking and a man came walking up beside me carrying on a conversation on his cell phone. Literally, you could have heard him a hundred yards away. In fact, the person he was talking to may have been able to hear him without the cell phone but whoever it was the man near me was not at all happy or pleased with the conversation or the person with whom he was talking. He was not angry, but he was stern. He said, "Well, you call back when you are not in such a complaining mood." He flipped his cell phone shut. It was the end of the conversation.

I certainly was not going to

ask him what that was all about because he was not talking to me. I just moved on toward my destination. I did not know, but I did wonder who in the world he was talking to - a friend, business associate, customer, child, his wife, his ex-wife. Honestly, I really did not care and I surely was not going to ask him who it was since I did not know him. To my knowledge, I had never seen the guy before and probably would never see him again. It was just a passing moment in time where I heard one piece of a conversation that stuck with me. "Call back when you are not in such a complaining mood."

I have never had anyone to tell me that and hang up, though possibly, there are people who wanted to, and I can never remember telling anyone else that and hanging up, or just telling them and not hanging up. I may have thought about doing it. Maybe you have done a similar thing or maybe you have wanted to do a similar thing. Do you know what struck my heart as I walked on by myself? I am so thankful that I have not heard God say that to me and then hang up on me. Now in all honesty, there are times when I have felt impressed of the Lord that He was saying, "Jim, stop complaining so much!" There are times that He must grow weary of hearing my complaints.

Can you imagine how our wonderful God must feel? He pours out His blessings on us allowing us to live in the most prosperous nation on the planet. He gives us good health and

provides us with incredible medical care when we are sick. He gives us unlimited opportunities to grow, to learn, and to enjoy life. He pours out His grace so that we may hear the Good News of Jesus. He joins us together in worship in a great fellowship of churches, and He allows us to experience the wonder of being in His Kingdom. Then He listens to our prayers that seem to be endless bellyaching, constant murmuring, fussing about what we do not have, or fuming about what someone else is doing.

We are closely akin to our spiritual forefathers that came out of Egypt across the desert into the Promise Land. God blessed them on the journey. Food came from heaven every morning to their tent door. Their shoes did not wear out. They were protected by a pillar of fire at night and received guidance from a cloud by day. Then when they murmured and complained, God did not hang up. He turned and blessed them again. When they only received manna from heaven, they griped because there was no meat with it, so God provided meat. Of course, you remember that it was not long before they were complaining because they were gorged with meat. Oh well, thank you God for not hanging

up on us. Thank you for your patience. Lord, thank you for blessing us because we certainly do not deserve the incredible outpouring of your love.

Today before you go charging into your prayer closet or launching into the throne room of God, make a conscious decision to go there and not complain. Do you think that it would bless the heart of God if you just came to Him to thank Him and to enjoy being with Him as you think about all of the ways that He has provided for you, protected you, guided you, and shown mercy toward you?

I so often think of that marvelous invitation that God extends to us in Jeremiah 33:3. "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." Beyond our ability to comprehend, that is the way God is going to respond to us. In our sinfulness and sometimes our incredible selfishness, we are unworthy of the blessings that He pours out upon us. For sure, He is not worthy of having to listen to our complaints and wade through all of our bad attitudes and bellyaching. "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all of his benefits" (Ps. 103:1-2). That is a good thing!

The author can be contacted at [jfutral@mbcb.org](mailto:jfutral@mbcb.org).

**Nick Clark**  
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## Restoration GRACE

February 19 & 20, 2010

A conference to encourage and equip the Church to actively respond in a Christ-like manner to a world impacted by **Homosexuality**

Parents or spouses who have heard the words "I'm Gay" will find support, encouragement, answers and hope. Those struggling with unwanted same-sex attractions will hear the Good News that these desires can be triumphed over.

For the latest conference information and to register, visit [www.morrisonheights.org/restorationgrace](http://www.morrisonheights.org/restorationgrace) or contact 601-925-6427.

**Friday, February 19**

Learn how to experience God's purpose for marriage

**Saturday, February 20**

Sessions for over-comers, parents, spouses, family members, youth, friends, ministry leaders

**Featured Speakers Include:**

Mike & Stephanie Goeke on marriage; Shelley Conrad & Ashley Edwards on overcoming female lesbianism; John Smid on overcoming male same-sex attraction; Terri Brown on parents; Bob Stith on the church & culture; plus more

**Morrison Heights Baptist Church**

Morrison Heights Baptist Church  
3000 Hampstead Blvd.  
Clinton, MS 39056  
601-924-5620  
Dr. Greg Belser, Pastor

In cooperation with  
The Christian Action Commission  
And Discipleship & Family Ministry of  
The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
PO Box 530 | Jackson, MS 39205 | 601-968-3800





"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Colossians 3:17



Feb. 26-27, 2010

Country Woods BC, Byram, MS

For more info: Rene Edwards, 601-292-3283  
1-800-748-1651, ext. 283, redwards@mbcb.org

Saturday, April 10

## 2010 Student Speakers' Tournament

William Carey University

Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Registration - 9:30 a.m.

Tournament - 10:00 a.m.

For more information:

Discipleship & Family Ministry Department

1-800-748-1651 toll-free

601-292-3286 local

E-mail: KHAL@mbcb.org or redwards@mbcb.org

Fax: 601-714-7432

## GARAYWA 2010 SUMMER CAMP

### GA CAMP

June 7-11

June 14-18

June 21-25

June 28-July 2

July 5-9

July 12-16

July 19-23

July 26-30

### ACTEENS CAMP

June 28-July 2

July 5-9

ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS: March 1, 2010

COST: \$155 per person

For more information, contact the WMU at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 316, or in Jackson at 601-292-3316.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST  
MINISTRY ASSISTANTS CONFERENCE  
APRIL 12 & 13, 2010

IT STARTED WITH A RAINBOW.....  
A PURPOSE / A PROMISE

## MISSISSIPPI KIDS' CAMP 2010

Enjoy  
high-tech gadgets  
and fun physical training at Spy  
CAMP! Kids learn to rescue others,  
defend themselves, and search for  
real life Bible applications they can  
uncover and apply right away.

Week I - June 21-23, 2010

Week II - June 24-26, 2010

Central Hills Baptist Retreat  
Kosciusko, MS

FOR KIDS WHO HAVE COMPLETED GRADES 2-4  
COST \$150

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Worship
- Church Bible study
- Adventure Ropes course
- Horseback riding
- Archery/Rifery
- Fishing

Fee includes camp activities, lodging, meals, t-shirt. No liners provided.

### SPECIAL CAMP POLICY:

Requires churches to send an adult counselor (21 years or older) with every 5 campers of the same gender. Counselors will be housed with the children and will be responsible for the conduct of that group.

Registration opens at 10:00 a.m.

Last day, camp concludes at 1:00 p.m.

For registration information, please contact  
MBCB Conference Office at (601) 292-3216.

**MATT BUCKLES**  
Pastor, FBC, Vicksburg

**DANIEL HOWARD**  
Pastor, FBC  
Philadelphia

**BARRY CORBETT**  
Pastor, FBC, Kosciusko



### "PREACH THE WORD"

**FBC, Vicksburg**  
Monday, April 19

**FBC, Kosciusko**  
Tuesday, April 20

**FBC, Philadelphia**  
Wednesday, April 21

For more information, call Kay McDonnell, (601) 292-3305  
or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305, or E-mail kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

## Church Facilities & Furnishings Workshop

March 16, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Parkway Baptist Church, Clinton  
802 North Frontage Road



For pastors, staff members, building  
committees, long-range planning  
committees, business administrators  
and maintenance/property personnel.

For more info, contact Keith Gordon at kgordon@mbcb.org or  
601-292-3307 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 307



## STUDENT MINISTRY SPRING TRAINING

"Partnering with Parents  
of Students ... Resources  
and Strategies"

A holistic view for ministry  
that partners with parents in  
the spiritual growth and  
development of teenagers.

**3 locations / 3 dates**  
**10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**

Register by calling or E-mailing  
Rene Edwards at 1.800.748.1651,  
ext. 283, or [redwards@mbcb.org](mailto:redwards@mbcb.org)

Tuesday, 3/02  
FBC, Jackson  
Led by Sherry Spillman

Thursday, 3/04  
North Oxford BC  
Led by Sherry Spillman

Thursday, 3/11  
FBC, Laurel  
Led by Rick Morton

## LEGAL ISSUES FACING THE CHURCH

Alan Woodward, director, Pastor/Leadership Development  
Department, MBCCB

Kelly D. Simpkins, Attorney, Wells Marble & Hunt, PLLC

Monday, Feb. 22, 7 p.m.  
FBC, Brandon, College St. Campus

AUDIENCE: Pastor/Staff, Personnel Committee,  
Finance Committee, Treasurer, Deacons, Trustees

A special "Training for Church out of Court" will be available  
for those who are unable to attend the main program.

## National Baptist Nursing Fellowship Retreat "Called to Love - Called to Fellowship"

April 15-18, 2010 - Fort Worth, Texas

Ministry Project: \$10 Walmart Gift Cards

Registration: [www.wmu.com](http://www.wmu.com) <<http://www.wmu.com>>, click Get Involved

## 2010 Young Musicians' Camps Blue Mountain College



July 12-16

Guest Director: Lois Ann Roberts  
Children's Music Specialist  
Orlando, Fla.



July 19-23

Guest Director: Ruth Lewis  
Music Associate  
North Phoenix BC  
Phoenix, Ariz.

For more info: contact Sarah Talley  
Preschool/Children's Contract  
Consultant, Church Music  
Department  
1-800-748-1651, 601-292-3271 or  
[stalley@mbcb.org](mailto:stalley@mbcb.org)



## Super Summer

## Endurance



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**WORSHIP LEADER**  
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Band

Deposit of \$50 per person and  
ALL of the individual's  
completed information into our  
office by June 4.  
Final payments due  
by June 30.

For more info: e-mail Rene Edwards  
[redwards@mbcb.org](mailto:redwards@mbcb.org) or call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 284



## from the Heart ... In Prayer for Mississippi CHURCH LIBRARY MINISTRY Retreat

### NEW MINI-CONFERENCES

- Gifts and Memorials
- Inventory...
- Manual or Concourse
- Making Bookmarks  
for Ministry
- Ministry Tools  
for New Workers
- Pre-mending and  
Processing Show & Tell
- Promotion Outside the Box
- Storytelling

### CONFERENCES:

- CHURCH LIBRARY PROMOTION PLANNING, led by Sandra Fitts
- CONNECTING WITH OTHER MINISTRIES, led by Sandra Fitts
- DEVELOPING THE COLLECTION, led by Eva Nell Hunter
- LOOKING AT CLASSIFICATION AND CATALOGING WITH  
MELVIL AND MINNIE, led by Eva Nell Hunter

Worship Leader  
Tim Deyton



Worship Speaker  
Ronnie Falvey



For more information: contact Communication Services: 1-800-748-1651 (Miss. only), 601-292-3378 (locally)  
Fax: 601-714-7412; E-mail: [irichardson@mbcb.org](mailto:irichardson@mbcb.org), or [jchen@mbcb.org](mailto:jchen@mbcb.org)



# In Haiti, Mississippi Baptist medical team moves into action



SAY "AAHHHH" — Dr. Dan Edney, Vicksburg, treats one of many Haitian children at a small hospital set up at a Baptist church in Port-au-Prince. (Photo by Kay Cassibry)

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (BP and local reports)—Six state Southern Baptist Disaster Relief medical teams are among the first Baptists to minister in Haiti since the deadly 7.0 earthquake on Jan. 12.

SBDR medical volunteers from Arkansas and North Carolina have already come and gone, and Kentucky and Mississippi teams arrived on Monday, Feb. 1. Florida and South Carolina medical volunteers arrived in Port-Au-Prince on Wednesday, Feb. 3.

The Mississippi and Kentucky teams wasted no

time after arriving on Monday, turning a small library into a pharmacy and treating 550 patients. The Mississippi team is operating a small hospital out of a Haitian Baptist church located on the edge of one of Port-Au-Prince's larger tent cities directly across from the national capitol building. Mississippi team members were Hester Pitts, Vicksburg; Steve Griffin, Mantee; Danny Ellis, Vicksburg; Kay Cassibry, Madison; Carl Myers, Poplarville; David Baldwin, Vicksburg; Lana

Waggoner, Jackson; Hursie Sullivan, Jackson; Dan Edney, Vicksburg; and David Jones, Vicksburg. The team saw 275 patients Feb. 3 and 222 patients Feb. 4. Sullivan had the opportunity to save the life of a small child who was seriously dehydrated. In

addition to dealing with dehydration and serious infections, the team was able to set and splint numerous breaks. Significantly, team members had many opportunities to share their faith, with many making decisions, including some Muslims.

North American Mission Board disaster relief consultant Terry Henderson and a team of six left Atlanta on Thursday, Feb. 4, to serve as an incident command team in Haiti. They linked up with Fritz Wilson and Dennis Wilbanks of the Florida Baptist Convention, who are on the ground in Haiti for the second time since the earthquake.

Henderson and his team will be busy planning logistics, lodging, transportation, feeding and communications for SBDR's eventual "D Day"—the day dozens of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief teams from the state conventions begin to be deployed to Haiti, a process that will extend over many months.

The Arkansas medical team was the first to land in Point-Au-Prince, ministering from Jan. 19-22.

Veteran disaster relief workers Tamara Gore and Jerry Gay were two of the 10 members of the Arkansas unit. Nothing prepared them for their first drive through downtown Port-Au-Prince, they reported. The unmistakable smell of death was pungent and everywhere.

Haiti was in only its seventh day following the devastating earthquake. More than 100,000 bodies had already

been recovered, and most had been buried in mass graves to stave off disease. The temperature was in the mid-80s.

"I was in the first car," said Gore, a law enforcement chaplain from Benton, Ark. "You could see the bodies. We would pass a collapsed building and you would smell the bodies. Everybody knew what it was without talking about it."

As the additional SBDR teams arrive in the Haitian capital in the days and weeks to come, Gay advises them to know why they're going before they get there.

"The mission ought to be clear," Gay said. "Folks need to be mentally, emotionally and spiritually prepared."

Gore said it another way: "I would tell disaster relief people that they need to be prayed up before they get there, because they don't know what they're going into and what they're going to be dealing with," said the 51-year-old chaplain with 28 years of experience.



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

Visit us online at  
[www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org)

## STAFF CHANGES

1. Morgan City Church, Morgan City, has called Matthew Morgan as pastor. Shown are Morgan, his wife Valarie, daughter Bella, and son Isaiah.



1. The Morgans



A HEALING TOUCH — Dr. Hursie Sullivan, Jackson, is shown ministering to a small Haitian child on the verge of death by dehydration. (Photo by Kay Cassibry)



## Pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

*"The Lord's promise is sure. He speaks no careless word: all He says is purest truth, like silver seven times refined." Psalm 12:6 (Living Bible)*

### RACE RECONCILIATION (CAC Emphasis)

Continue to pray for the ongoing relief efforts in Haiti. Pray that those representing Christ will be examples of God's mercy, love and integrity.

Please pray for A and C to find a village where God is already working on Bambara hearts. They are heading out to the bush, seeking God's direction for a fruitful place where they can build a hut and live among the villagers.

Pray for: (1) Focus on Missions through WMU (WMU Emphasis) 15th-21st; (2) believers in Burma. The government continues to discourage, harass and use other more severe forms of persecution, seeing Christians as harmful to the state.

A missionary in the "Pearl City" has requested prayer for the ministry in her city. It hasn't been above zero degrees for two months and this makes it hard to get out and about and serve.

Pray for: (1) Super Summer Staff Training Retreat, Broadmoor BC, Madison (D&FM); (2) Don who is visiting from Kazakhstan is seeking to connect with Mississippi churches who will partner in ministry with him and the country in which he serves.

Pray for David, a missionary in Southeast Asia, as he works with pastors to catch a vision for reaching their community. Pray that local leaders will rise to the challenge.

Pray for a team from **Jones County Baptist Association** as they travel to Vancouver, Feb. 18-28, to be part of ministry during the 2010 Olympics. Pray for open doors of opportunity to share Christ with non-believers.

Pray for a team from **Loxahoma Baptist Church** as they travel to Thailand, Feb. Mar. 6th to conduct a home school conference for LMB personnel and their children. Pray they will be a blessing to them.  
Pray for: (1) AMD

MBCEF - Mississippi Baptist Christian Educators Fellowship Convention, 18th-19th, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, LA (CG).

Interpretation Meeting, Clinton, 25th-26th (MS); (2) Prayer 2010, 25th-27th, Nashville, TN (LifeWay).

## February 12-25, 2010

Pray for: a team from **Faith Baptist Church in Silver Creek, MS**. They will be traveling to Mexico, Feb. 13-20, to participate in an Operation Go project, a Gospel saturation effort.

Pray for: (1) over 400 **Southern Baptist Volunteers** participating in Olympic Ministry in Vancouver, Canada; (2) Christian Education Clinic, Highland BC, Mendian (D&FM); (3) Disaster Relief Area 9 Training, FBC Wiggins (MM).

Pray for: State BSU Retreat, Garaywa 19th-20th (CLGM); (2) Restoration Grace - Morrison Heights BC, Clinton, 19th-20th (CAC).

Pray for: (1) Children's Ministry Day (WMU Emphasis); (2) believers in Nigeria. Religious riots are common in northern Nigeria. Churches, Christian schools, homes and businesses are burned and destroyed by the angry rioters.

## Ultimate Youth Week



**Speaker:**  
**GARY**  
**PERMENTER**

**June 7 - 11**  
**Central Hills**  
**Baptist Retreat**



**Worship Leader**  
**TOM**  
**EDWARDS**

- A \$10 deposit per camper is due with the balance paid 15 days prior to camp.
- The total cost per camper is \$175 which includes lodging, meals, insurance, program fees and t-shirt.
- A reservation request form is available online at [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org) <<http://www.mbc.org>>. Click on encampments and Central Hills Baptist Retreat.

**FOR MORE INFO:** Rene' Edwards  
Ministry Assistant  
Discipleship and Family Ministry  
PO Box 530  
Jackson MS 39205  
601.292.3283  
662.289.9730  
[dramage@mbcb.org](mailto:dramage@mbcb.org)  
[jray@mbcb.org](mailto:jray@mbcb.org)

**Mr. Drew Williams - 4/1/93**

Parents: Matt & Shea, Last Frontier

**Miss Alicia Racey - 4/3/89**

Parents: Michael & Annette  
American Peoples

**Mr. Noah C. - 4/5/04**

Parents: James & Tracy  
Restricted

**Mr. Mason N. - 4/17/91**

Parents: J & J, Restricted

**Miss Mary Katelyn Simpson - 4/20/00**

Parents: Adam & Kristen  
European Peoples

**Miss Sarah N. - 4/21/94**

Parents: J & J, Restricted

**Miss Kimberly Carlton - 4/24/90**

Parents: David & Pamela  
Sub-Saharan African Peoples

**Encourage an MK**  
**with a birthday card!**

**Miss Elisabeth Savannah Johnson - 4/25/07**

Parents: Lew & Brandi  
Sub-Saharan African Peoples

**Miss Eden S. - 4/26/05**

Spencer & Melanie, Restricted

**Miss Lindsey Williams - 4/27/01**

Parents: Matt & Shea, Last Frontier

**Mr. Cale Little - 4/28/91**

Parents: Bob & Amy  
Sub-Saharan African Peoples

**Mr. Christopher Carlton - 4/29/93**

Parents: David & Pamela  
Sub-Saharan African Peoples

**FOR SECURITY**, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: Child's name, Parent's name, **MBCB wMu MK Birthdays**, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205. **PLEASE NOTE:** Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the wMu.

# HOUSE TOPS



## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

## What Will It Take to Change Your Mind?

Philippians 3:2-15; 4:8

By Barbara Brown

*"Let the mind of the Master be the master of your mind." (Anonymous)*

More than thirty years ago, as I was working a summer job, I met the man I would marry. In the months before I met him, however, I had made up my mind that I was very content with my singleness, and I had determined that I would not allow any man to change my mind about that. The job required that we work together closely. Over the next few months, I began to learn about this man. I learned about his family, his background, his character, and his values. The more I learned about him, the more I wanted to know. So I spent as much time with him as possible. One could even say that I became a student of all things concerning him. Before I knew it, my mind

had been changed and I was planning a wedding! Not only had my mind been changed; my heart had been changed as well.

Pursuing a relationship with him and getting to know him better changed my mind about being single. My choice to get married reflected that change.

Although much more serious, and having far greater consequences, the same general truths apply to walking with the Lord. A genuine pursuit of Christ will result in knowing Him better. Knowing Him will change your heart, values, and way of thinking, because the more you know about Christ and His character, the more you will want to know. You will want to spend more time with Him and you will want to be like Him. Then your life and your mind will reflect the change that He alone can make.



Brown

The nature of one growing in Christ

The life of one growing in Christ will be one of conviction and commitment. The life of one growing in Christ will have a mind and heart set on Him. The life of one growing in Christ will be one characterized by these qualities:

- Rejoicing (3:1)
- Puts no confidence in the flesh (3:3)
- Acknowledges that losing everything for the sake of Christ is fine (3:7-8)
- Is willing to share in the sufferings of Christ (3:10)
- Is focused on the main thing (3:12-14)
- Places faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross (3:9)
- Gentle (4:5)
- Content (4:6)
- Prayerful (4:6)
- Thankful (4:6)
- Peaceful (4:7)
- Thinks about things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, or praiseworthy. (4:8)

The power afforded one growing in Christ

How can one person ever possess these qualities? By trusting in the truth of God's Word and allowing Him to apply to our lives His power – the same power that raised Jesus from the dead, the "resurrection power." As we acknowledge Him and allow Him to teach us, we begin to "know Christ in the power of His resurrection." It is in the power of His resurrection that we find forgiveness – a permanent, life-giving kind of forgiveness. Because Jesus was obedient even to death and because the Father raised Him from the dead, we can know the forgiveness of a mighty, loving God. That same resurrection power changes our lives, as daily we commit to follow Christ. The Holy Spirit matures us as He applies the resurrection power to our lives. The resurrection power is ours also as we walk through trials and troubles in this life. The power of the resurrection may not rescue us from the difficulties of this present life, but it will strengthen and

teach us as we encounter them. The power of the resurrection shapes us to be more and more like Jesus every day.

The changed mind of one growing in Christ

The changed mind is a reflection of a changed heart under the influence of the Holy Spirit. The source of the changed mind is an up-close and personal, intimate kind of love relationship with the Lord, the kind Paul referred to in Philippians 3:10 when he said, "I want to KNOW Christ..." This kind of knowledge far surpasses the knowledge found in intellect alone. But this kind of knowledge can only be realized as one chooses to spend time with the Lord each day.

What will it take to change your mind?

Are you learning more about the unchangeable character of Christ? Are you allowing the Spirit to fill you with the love of Christ? Are you trusting God to keep His promises in your life? Then by His power you can have a changed mind!

Brown is children's minister, Colonial Heights Church, Ridgeland.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE  
When You Feel Overwhelmed

Mark 13:9-13; 21-27; 32-37

By Malcolm Woody

Sparks from the fire dance toward the heavens as the arid early spring chill cuts to the bone, and you ease up close to the fire. Behind you the flap of your tent ruffles in the wind. You look across the fire and see the disciple known as Andrew deep in thought. You have stayed close to the followers of Jesus on the margins of the crowd and now you are camped outside the home of Mary and Martha in Bethany. Jesus and the others are inside and only Andrew has joined you, although his mind is clearly distant as he focuses on the flames.

"The Teacher warned us greatly today," he says as his eyes do not stray from the fire.

"Yes," you reply more as a question than an affirmation.

"We were coming out of

the temple, James, Peter, John and I. As we considered the temple we mentioned its splendor, but He said all would be destroyed within our generation." Andrew cuts his eyes toward you to gauge your reaction.

"Who?", you question, "Rome?"

"He didn't mention who. But, He went on to tell us to be on guard, that we'd be handed over to the Sanhedrin, flogged in synagogues, stand before governors and kings on His account. He told us not to believe anyone who may call themselves the Messiah or others who might say the same. He said there would be false Messiahs and Prophets who would exhibit powers and perform signs."

"How will we know the



Woody

truth?", you inquire.

Andrew replies, "I'm not sure, but the reason this would be happening was to sway the chosen. He described a great and glorious day of His coming in the future and how angels will be dispatched to gather the faithful."

Andrew's gaze returns to the fire.

"When will all this happen?", you ask.

Andrew looks up, "That's just it, He said no one knows the hour but the Father, and we should be ever watchful. Jesus intends to go away, but I can't understand all that" He says. "He told us of a man going on a journey and how he leaves his estate in the care of his servants giving them authority and telling a doorkeeper to be vigilant. Those servants and the doorkeeper know not when the master returns. I sense we are the servants and the doorkeepers."

You shake your head feeling overwhelmed about the

future. What on earth is the Master speaking of to His followers? What will happen to them? Andrew rises from the fire and returns to the house. You begin to pray...

2,000 years later many people spend a lot of time and focus on the end of time. In today's lesson, Jesus clearly reveals a Source in dealing with the uncertainty of the future. This Source is just as viable for us today as Andrew and the others of the first century, although the Source would not come to Andrew until much later that night around the fire.

Jesus is clear that we are to look to the Spirit for guidance. In Mark 13:11, Jesus says it is the Spirit who will speak on behalf of the Christian. This shouldn't be a license not to study the scriptures and be prayerful; for being on guard (v.9) means to be prepared. Peter stated it like this:

*But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.*

*But do this with gentleness and respect (NIV 1 Peter 3:15).*

Too often, I see extremes that betray these scriptures. One extreme is the passive Christian who says nothing and has no answer prepared for those seeking the hope we have. The other extreme is the red faced radical condemning everyone to hell completely void of what Peter describes as gentleness and respect.

The Spirit guides us into truth (John 16:13), therefore in our own power we can't be watchful and we are defenseless against the adversary and his devious plans to deceive the elect. Jesus said, "I've told you everything in advance. (Mk 13:23b HCSB)", therefore, everything means everything. There is no more revelation that needs to be uttered or revealed. We have the scriptures, preserved for us down through the ages, and the Holy Spirit who resides within the authentic Christian directing us toward the truth. This is all we need.

Woody is a member of Broadmoor Church, Madison.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST  
**Record**



## REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **Escatawpa Church, Escatawpa:** Revival, Feb. 21 - 24; Sun., 10:50 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., luncheon services 11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m., and 7 p.m.; Gary Bowlin, speaker; Ronnie Cottingham, music.
2. **Salem Church, Tylertown:** Revival, Feb. 14 - 17; Sun., 10:50 a.m. followed by lunch and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Carroll Roberson, speaker; Mark Wicker, pastor.
3. **Goodwater Church, Magee:** Revival, Feb. 21 - 26; Sun., 10:30 a.m.; potluck fellowship meal, 5 p.m. and service, 6:30 p.m.; Mon. - Fri., 7 p.m.; Mickey Caison, speaker; Daniel Lee, music; Chris Carter, pastor.
4. **First Church, Batesville:** Revival, Feb. 27 - Mar. 1; Sat. - Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon., 7 p.m.; Ron Herrod, speaker; Bob Smith, music.
5. **Mount Olive Church, Smithdale:** Revival, Feb. 28 - Mar. 3; Sun., 11 a.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Jimmy Porter, Daniel Hall, Argyle Smith, Greg Warnock, speakers; Ed May, music.

Visit us online at [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org) to learn more about Mississippi Baptist opportunities.



[www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org)

## COLLEGE NEWS

1. The Symphonic Winds orchestra of Mississippi College will present a free concert Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m., in Swor Auditorium on the Clinton campus.
2. William Carey University will celebrate Black History Month with a special art exhibit celebrating the African American experience in the Sarah Ellen Gillespie Museum of Art through Mar. 12 on the Hattiesburg campus. The exhibit features more than 80 works employing various media. The exhibit is open Mon. - Fri., 1 - 4 p.m. or by special arrangement by calling (601) 318-6148.
3. The William Carey University Department of Art will host the first annual High School Art Competition and Scholarship Awards Ceremony for Forrest County high school juniors and seniors May 8 at 2 p.m. Student works will be exhibited in the Lucile Parker Gallery on that day from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. only. Registration forms must be turned in no later than Friday, April 16, and

entries hand-delivered no later than Tuesday, April 27, between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to the Lucile Parker Gallery.

Awards include a \$2000 WCU art scholarship for Best in Show, and scholarships for first, second, third places as well as a WCU President's Purchase Award. The purchased art work will become part of the Lucile Parker Teaching Collection.

For more information contact Read Diket, director of art study on the Hattiesburg campus, at [rdiket@wmc.edu](mailto:rdiket@wmc.edu) or (601) 318-6205 or Chathan Meade, Parker Gallery director, at [cmeade@wmc.edu](mailto:cmeade@wmc.edu) or 318-6528.

### MS POSITIONS

**BREWER BAPTIST CHURCH**, is seeking a P/T Youth and Children's Director that can help us prepare future leaders for an eternity, not just for today. Resumes will be received through February 28, 2010. Please send your resume to 24 Otho Sellers Rd., Richton, MS 39476 or email [yymnistry@yahoo.com](mailto:yymnistry@yahoo.com)

**BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH** IS SEEKING a P/T Music/Youth Minister. Send resumes to Bethel Baptist Church, c/o Bill Finch, 500 S. Main, Water Valley, Ms., 38965-3327 or Email [bfinches@gmail.com](mailto:bfinches@gmail.com). Tel. 662-473-3667.

## Record

### CLASSIFIED ADS

**CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, BEARDEN** ([cbcbearden.org](http://cbcbearden.org)), a large suburban Knoxville, TN church with ties to both the SBC and the CBF is seeking a senior pastor. For more information about this position, to apply or to recommend a candidate, please see the church website at [cbcbearden.org/pastorsearch.shtml](http://cbcbearden.org/pastorsearch.shtml).

**BETSY'S LILCABIN@YAHOO.COM** at Lake Lincoln. \$250.00 weekly, \$60.00 nightly. 601-643-8817 or 601-940-6841.

**GATLINBURG CABIN FOR RENT:** 2 bd/2ba, full kitchen, great view of National Pk. \$95/night. 832-922-0401 / [pdw4760@att.net](mailto:pdw4760@att.net)

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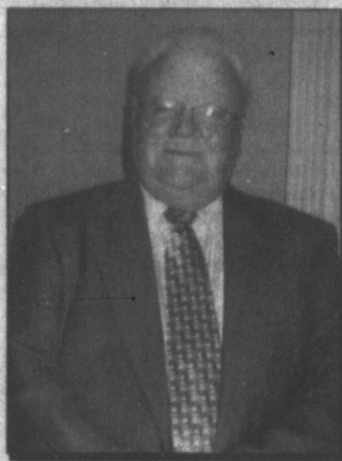
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## JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. D.J. Benson

1. **Salem Heights Church, Laurel** has established a scholarship fund in honor of D. J. Benson. The purpose is to award scholarships to students attending or planning to attend a Mississippi Southern Baptist College or Southern Baptist Seminary and those who have evidenced a call to a church related vocation. The scholarship fund actively seeks gifts from interested individuals who, by their giving, help provide scholarships to fellow Christians in Christian education. If you are interested in contributing to this worthwhile

cause, you may mail your contribution to Salem Heights Baptist Church, P.O. Box 2758, Laurel, MS 39442. Gifts to the scholarship fund should be designated for the D. J. Benson Scholarship Fund.



2. Liberty Hill Church, Pope

2. **Liberty Hill Church, Pope**, held a baby dedication service Jan. 24. Shown are Daniel, Heather, and Lynny Nicholson, and pastor Jay Anderson.

3. **The Mission Friends of Branch Church, Morton**, collected canned goods and donated them to the Crisis Center. Shown are the participants.

4. **Holly Church, Alcorn**, participated in its first international mission trip in October, 2009. Eleven participants served in Ecuador with missionary Rod Bond. They worked with an orphanage, helped with local community work, and led worship with testimony, music, and drama. Shown are the participants.

5. **First Church, Newton**, honored Randy Cuchens, minister of music and senior adults, and his wife, Susan, on his 25th anniversary of service. Cuchens was "roasted" after the morning worship service at a potluck dinner. Cuchens received a monetary gift and a book of letters. Shown are Randy, Susan, Jennifer, and Jessica Cuchens.



3. Branch Church, Morton

6. **Calvary Church, Columbia**, will host Naomi and the Segos in concert Feb. 19, 6:30 p.m.

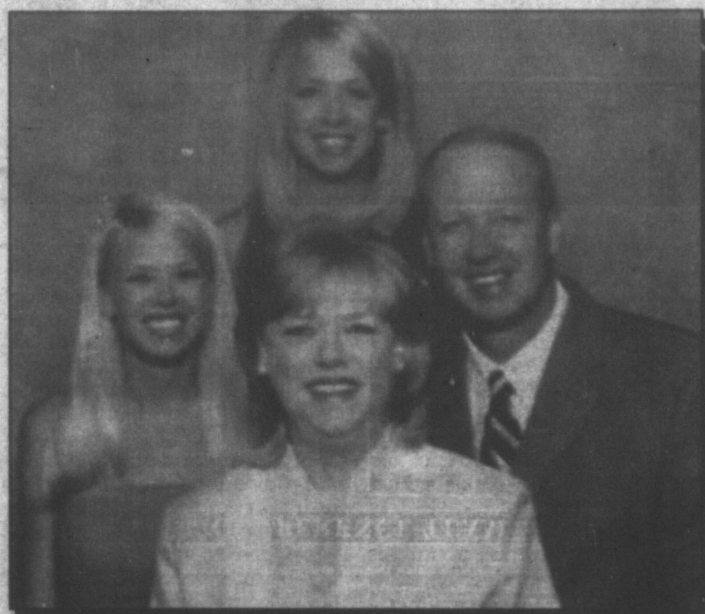
7. **Cedar View Church, Olive Branch**, is hosting a community singing featuring the Low Note Duo Feb. 20, 6 p.m. The event will be preceded by a dinner at 5 p.m.

8. **Faith Church, Ovette** is sponsoring a barbecue plate sale Feb. 20, 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

9. **The Hut Sunday School Class, Main Street Church, Hattiesburg**, is hosting Singing for the Kids, a benefit for the Baptist Children's Village in Clinton, Mar. 6, 6 p.m. Featured musicians include The Woodmen of the World Trio, Bobby and Debbie Maskew, the Dr. Elton Raby Trio, The Faithway Singers, and Calvary's Harmony Quartet. Free admission; a love offering will be received.



4. Holly Church, Alcorn







5. The Cuchens

### Unveiling The Truth For the 21st Century: The Word of God JAMES MESSER EVANGELISM CONFERENCE William Carey University, Hattiesburg, MS

February 21-26, 2010

SUNDAY	SUNDAY & MONDAY	TUESDAY
 Dr. Ergun Caner President Liberty Theological Seminary Converted Muslim 6:00 p.m. Worship Service	 Dr. Emir Caner President Truett McConnell College Converted Muslim Sunday • 8:00 p.m. Worship Service Monday • 9:00 a.m. Chapel Noon Service at Main Street BC 6:00 p.m. Worship Service	 Dr. Tommy Green Senior Pastor FBC Brandon, FL 11:30 a.m. Luncheon Service in Wilkes Hall 6:00 p.m. Worship Service
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	THURSDAY & FRIDAY
 Dr. Don Wilton Pastor FBC Spartanburg, SC 7:00 a.m. Chapel Service Noon Service at Petal Harvey Baptist 6:00 p.m. Worship Service	 Dr. Junior Hill Evangelist Hattiesburg, MS 11:30 a.m. Luncheon Service in Wilkes Hall 6:00 p.m. Worship Service	 Dr. Johnny Hunt Pastor Woodstock BC Thursday • 6:00 p.m. Worship Friday • 9:00 a.m. Chapel

#### CONFERENCE TEAM

 James Messer Staff Evangelist Higher Ground Baptist Irvington, AL	 Phil Willis Music Evangelist Baton Rouge, LA Worship Leader & Special Music
 Sons of the Father Music Evangelists West Frankfort, IL Special Music	 Perry "Airhead" Robbins The Ballroom Man • Columbia, MS Children's Worship Sunday through Thursday nights beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Student Conference Center of Wilkes Hall Children K-5 through 6th Grade.

Sunday through Thursday Evening Services begin at 6:00 p.m. with Pre-session Music in South Auditorium of Thomas Line ACC Center on the Hattiesburg Campus of William Carey University.  
Monday Noon Service and meal at Main Street Baptist. Serving begins between 11:30 - 11:45.  
Wednesday Noon Service and meal at Petal Harvey Baptist. Serving begins between 11:30 - 11:45.  
Tuesday and Thursday Luncheon Services begin at 11:30 a.m. in the Student Conference Center of Wilkes Hall on Carey Campus.

Sponsored By William Carey University and Mississippi Baptist Convention